

IN BRIEF

Man hospitalized after hatchet attack

An alleged hatchet attack on Aug. 28 in Warrenton put a 50-year-old man in the hospital.

The victim, a transient, said the incident took place behind Goodwill in the vicinity of a homeless camp. He was taken to Columbia Memorial Hospital in Astoria, then to a hospital in the Portland area, and will likely survive, Warrenton police said in a press release.

The Clatsop County Major Crime team is still investigating. "Currently, investigators have no reason to believe there is a threat to the general public," the release stated.

Contact Detective Tyler Johnston at 503-861-2235 or tjohnston@ci.warrenton.or.us to offer information.

— *The Astorian*

Seaside man killed in crash

A person was killed and another flown to St. Charles Bend with life-threatening injuries early Thursday after a driver reportedly ran a stop sign on U.S. Highway 97 between Sunriver and La Pine, Oregon State Police said in a news release.

Seaside resident Robert Owens, 56, was pronounced dead around 1:05 a.m. at the scene of the wreck.

According to the preliminary investigation by police, Owens was the passenger in a Dodge Caravan driven by Sherri Wood, of Lyons, who police say entered the highway at Vandervert Road without stopping.

Wood, 46, struck the driver's side of a commercial vehicle heading north. The commercial vehicle caught fire and burned "beyond recognition," police said.

Wood was taken to the hospital, while the driver of the commercial vehicle escaped uninjured.

— *The Bulletin*

Gearhart considers parks master plan

GEARHART — In a parks survey conducted by the Gearhart Parks Master Plan Advisory Committee, residents found many ways to say the same thing when it comes to their love of beaches, local parks, walking and bike trails.

The plan, delivered in draft form last week, describes a potential for improving facilities for east-west travel across U.S. Highway 101 and new parks throughout the city. It emphasizes support for existing parks and trails like the Ridge Path, Lesley Miller Dunes Meadow Park and the 10th Street beach access.

"It was interesting to note how much of the community agrees," George Van Hoomissen, the chairman of the committee, said. "There are some areas of some disagreement. But there is far more consensus in our communities."

Job fair planned in Astoria

For Oregon's Back to Work Day, WorkSource Oregon Astoria is hosting a drive-thru job fair with local businesses in the Burger King parking lot on Marine Drive.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sept. 15.

Since many businesses are short-handed, they will also provide the option of having job seekers applying in-person at their work site. Employers are responsible for selecting what hours between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. that they want people to arrive, and providing someone who will greet them and provide information.

Interested businesses need to register in advance with Debbie Newton, who can be reached at debbie.m.newton@oregon.gov

— *The Astorian*

ON THE RECORD

Robbery

• Keith Alan Byman, 33, of Longview, Washington, was arrested on Thursday afternoon behind Kentucky Fried Chicken on Marine Drive in Astoria for robbery in the second degree, theft in the second degree and giving false information to a police officer. Byman allegedly stole merchandise from M & N Workwear.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Seaside Community Center Commission, 10 a.m., 1225 Avenue A.

Port of Astoria Commission, 4 p.m., 10 Pier 1, Suite 209.

Seaside Library Board of Directors, 4:30 p.m., 1131 Broadway.

Seaside Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Cannon Beach City Council, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Astoria City Council, 7 p.m., City Hall, 1095 Duane St.

WEDNESDAY

Warrenton Community Library Board, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

Clatsop County Board of Commissioners, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Cannon Beach City Council, Planning Commission, Design Review Board, 6 p.m., joint meeting, (electronic meeting).

Astoria School District Board, 7 p.m., (electronic meeting).

THURSDAY

Seaside Civic and Convention Center Commission, 5 p.m., 415 First Ave.

Gearhart Planning Commission, 6 p.m., (electronic meeting).

Seaside Parks Advisory Committee, 6 p.m., City Hall, 989 Broadway.

Warrenton Planning Commission, 6 p.m., City Hall, 225 S. Main Ave.

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Labor Day kicks off 2022 election season

By GARY WARNER
Oregon Capital Bureau

Ready or not, Oregon, the 2022 election season is here.

Labor Day weekend of odd-numbered years is the traditional kickoff of serious campaign activity aimed at the ballot voters will mark in 14 months.

If anything, 2021 has a running start. The busy summer needs a primer to catch up on what's happened and what's coming up that will have an impact on the ballot voters will see for the general election on Nov. 8, 2022.

- A wide-open governor's race that for the first time in 20 years won't feature an incumbent or former governor on the ballot. Gov. Kate Brown is barred from seeking a third consecutive term.
- A new open congressional seat — Oregon's first in 40 years. With all five U.S. House members from Oregon seeking reelection, the new district is a chance to join a club that rarely has vacancies.
- U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden is marking 40 years since he first came to Washington, D.C., as a 31-year-old U.S. House member from Portland. The Oregon Democrat is running for another term and already has \$6.3 million in the bank for the race.

- New political topography in Oregon created by a legally required redrawing of lines for 96 state House, Senate and congressional seats might not be finalized until as late as January.
- A slew of proposed initiatives, constitutional amendments, referendums and referrals working their way through the long process of qualifying for the November 2022 ballot.

Kotek's domino effect

Brown's departure and redistricting have unleashed pent-up ambition among politicians whose rise has been blocked by incumbents holding on to the top offices.

State House Speaker Tina Kotek, D-Portland, announced last week that she is ready to drop her gavel and run for governor next year. Kotek has brought on veteran campaign adviser Thomas Wheatley, who performed the same role for Brown in her 2018 campaign.

Kotek is the state's longest-serving House speaker, having been chosen by colleagues in votes every two years since 2013.

Candidates cannot run simultaneously for two offices on the ballot. That's a trouble spot for Kotek and an advantage for possible primary opponents like Treasurer Tobias Read and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum.

If either of them run and lose, they go back to their old job. But a Kotek loss would leave her out of Oregon politics for the first time since she was first elected to the House in 2006.

No votes will have been cast by March 8, the final day to declare candi-



Associated Press

House Speaker Tina Kotek is running for governor.

dacy for office. Kotek will have to make a judgment call on how she is doing in the run-up to the primary more than two months later on May 20.

The deadline for her decision would come the latest day the Legislature can adjourn its 35-day session that begins in February.

Kotek's departure from the House would set off a scramble for her job.

Rep. Janelle Bynum, D-Clackamas, mounted an unsuccessful coup in the caucus at the beginning of the last session in a bid to replace Kotek.

Bynum would likely try again — unless she decides to run for congress.

House Majority Leader Barbara Smith Warner, D-Portland, and Rep. Paul Holvey, D-Eugene, a top Kotek lieutenant, could look to step up.

Bureau of Labor & Industries Commissioner Val Hoyle has denied rumors she is mulling a run for governor, saying she will run for reelection in 2022.

Rebound or relapse for Republicans

Republicans are fighting to remain viable as a statewide political force.

A Republican hasn't been elected governor since Vic Atiyeh won a second term in 1982.

Wyden and Oregon's other senator, Jeff Merkley, are both Democrats, as are four of the five U.S. House members.

The GOP holds no state executive offices. Democrats have a 37-23 supermajority in the House and an 18-12 supermajority in the Senate.

Republican candidates making bids for office often face better-known, better-financed incumbent Democrats.

The small number of top Republican officeholders and former lawmakers hasn't shown a desire to make a run for governor.

U.S. Rep. Cliff Bentz, an Ontario

Republican, is in his first term in Congress and isn't likely to risk a run for governor.

Former U.S. Rep. Greg Walden, a Hood River Republican who retired from Congress after two decades, is also out. Walden has consistently declined invitations from party leaders to help the GOP field a strong candidate for governor or senator.

Former U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith prefers the role of mentor and supporter of a select number of candidates to getting back into the political ring himself.

Along with a long shot bid for governor and a possible win in the reconfigured congressional map, GOP leaders hope legislative redistricting for the next decade that will go into effect with the 2022 election will open new opportunities to shift the balance of power in Salem.

Short of the long-term hope of returning to the majority, House Minority Leader Christine Drazan and others want to win enough seats so Democrats don't have the three-fifths margin in each chamber that allows them to pass taxes and other financial legislation without any Republican votes.

Though it seems like candidates have been running since the 2020 election ended 10 months ago, in reality, no one can officially run for state office until Thursday, the first day the secretary of state accepts candidate filings.

The in-basket includes candidates for city councils, county commissions, district attorneys, the Legislature, U.S. Senate and the governor.

While no one is officially a candidate until later this week, the chance to start raising money started long ago.

There are 38 prospective ballot measures that have been submitted to the secretary of state to attempt to qualify for the 2022 general election.

Voters could vote on allowing liquor to be sold in markets, criminal justice reform, penalties for lawmakers who refuse to attend legislative sessions and the creation of a commission to handle redistricting, beginning with the 2032 election.

And there are likely more in the pipeline for future elections.

Initiative 1, would ask voters to amend the state constitution to require more bills passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor to wait longer to become law.

The initiative was submitted in March 2019 — just four months after the 2018 general election. It was approved to begin circulating petitions in July 2020.

Whether or not supporters can gather 149,360 signatures in time to make the 2022 ballot won't be known until later next year.

The Oregon Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Kitmacher: A six-point strategy to resolve conflict

Continued from Page A1

The book took more than 18 months of research, reflected in five pages of source notes. He eschewed Northwest writers who had trod that path. "I purposely didn't read local authors — I didn't want to be influenced by them," he said.

Now that's available, he is working to revise "Solomon's Steps: Unlock Ancient, Biblical Wisdom — Resolve Life's Conflicts."

That book is an examination of how insights contained in Bible passages can be applied to mediation in marital, neighbor or other disputes.

It highlights Solomon, son of David, who the Book of Kings claims wrote 3,000 proverbs. He was memorable for forcing a conclusion to a dispute between two mothers over the ownership of a baby by suggesting the child be cut in half.

Kitmacher began research in 2004 and eventually self-published in 2010.

"It relied heavily on King Solomon, but I tried to broaden it by quoting Jewish heroes, Jesus, Mohammad, Gandhi," he said. "My target audience was every-

one who might have an interest in A, resolving conflicts and B, an underlying belief in the golden rule, 'Do unto others as you would they do unto you.' It was not seeking a religious audience necessarily."

Six-point plan

When highlighting ways to solve conflict, he notes that barriers include anger or being too invested in one position. He outlines a six-point strategy which he developed as a mediator:

- Bridge: build an atmosphere of mutually respectful behavior;
- Defuse: engage in conflict reducing communication;
- Make peace: apply diplomacy and wisdom;
- Negotiate: seek a mutually beneficial solution;
- Collaborate: achieve lasting and beneficial agreement and trust;
- Know: when and from whom to seek help.

Chapters suggest ways to follow this strategy using examples from the workplace, marital disputes and even neighbors arguing over the size and style of a fence.

Kitmacher said he was surprised and delighted that later research led him to dis-

cover that there had been six steps up to Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem.

His impetus for taking a fresh look at the book is today's fractured world, where conflicts are exacerbated by wider access to publishing platforms.

"In the last 10 years, our culture across the world has been devolving," he said. "We have conflict. The perfect example is this country."

At the core of his passion for resolving conflict is a reverence for the memory of his Polish father, Albert, who was the only member of his Jewish family to survive the World War II Nazi death camps.

As a historian, Kitmacher worries that studies of the conditions that led to Adolf Hitler's "Final Solution" offer ominous warnings for today's troubled society. "History has a habit of repeating itself," he says.

Albert Kitmacher, a tailor who spoke no English, emigrated to the United States in 1947, worked multiple jobs and married Pearl, who had learned of the atrocities against her fellow Jews and enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a WAVE (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service). They lived in Massachusetts and raised four children, encouraging all toward advanced education.

book, Kitmacher is blunt when describing his motives for writing it.

"There has always been a sense in my family of, 'Why did the Holocaust happen?' and, 'How can we keep it from happening again?'" he writes.

"All wars and interpersonal difficulties have one thing in common: conflict. Some conflicts are fought with words, some with guns.

"It is very difficult to resolve age-old hatreds between peoples. It is somewhat easier to resolve the everyday conflicts we each have in our lives. By resolving everyday conflicts, we have a better chance of improving our individual lives and positively impacting the larger conflicts in which they exist."

In an interview, he said, "It would be wonderful if we could resolve our disputes." Respect and tone are important, he notes. As an example, his "Solomon" book contains two examples of an email. A polite request for a quick reply, addressed to a named person and signed with the sender's name, contrasts with exactly the same words printed in bold capitals without using any names.

"In capital letters, we're screaming at each other," Kitmacher said.

"I think tone is critical," he adds. "Where people respect each other, they can diffuse the conflict."

Conflict management

In his conflict-resolution

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